

Dr. Luke Whitmore
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in West and South Asian Religions, Graduate Division of Religion, Emory University:
Aug. 2010.

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem): 2000–02.

M.T.S. Harvard Divinity School (World Religions): 1996–99.

B.A. Haverford College. Classical Languages (Greek and Latin): 1991–95.

DISSERTATION

In Pursuit of Maheshvara: Understanding Kedarnath as Place and as Tirtha.

Dissertation Director: Dr. Laurie Patton

Committee: Dr. Joyce Flueckiger, Dr. Don Seeman, Dr. Paul Courtright

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point: 2017-
present.

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: 2011–2017.

PUBLICATIONS

“Kedarnath” entry for Brill’s Encyclopedia of Hinduism 2018).

Mountain, Rock, Water, God: Understanding Kedarnath in the Twenty-First Century.
(University of California Press, 2018).

<https://www.luminosoa.org/site/books/10.1525/luminos.61/>

“In the Mountains of Radical Juxtaposition: Kedarnath at the Beginning of a New
Millennium.” Chapter for peer-reviewed edited volume
(Routledge, 2016) entitled Religion and Modernity in the Himalaya:

<https://www.routledge.com/Religion-and-Modernity-in-the-Himalaya/Sijapati-Birkenholtz/p/book/9780415723398>

“Conversations about Changes in Ritual Practice at the Himalaya Hindu Shrine of
Kedarnath.” Chapter in Ritual Innovation: Strategic Interventions in South Asian Religion
for edited volume (SUNY, 2018): <https://www.sunypress.edu/p-6527-ritual-innovation.aspx>

“In the Aftermath of the Himalayan Tsunami,” July 5, 2013, in Religion Dispatches:
<http://religiondispatches.org/in-the-aftermath-of-the-himalayan-tsunami/>

“God’s Gateway: Identity and Meaning in a Hindu Pilgrimage Place” by James Lochtefeld.
Review for Oxford Journal of Hindu Studies. Vol. 5, No. 3, Sept. 2012.

“The Challenges of Representing Shiva: Image, Place and Divine Presence in the Himalayan Hindu Shrine of Kedarnath” in *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief*. Vol. 8, Number 2, June 2012: <https://doi.org/10.2752/175183412X13346797481113>

“God of Justice: Ritual Healing and Social Justice in the Central Himalayas” by William S. Sax. *Review for International Journal of Hindu Studies* (December, 2010).

“Reflections on Intersections: An Introduction to the Ethnography and Theology Issue of *Practical Matters*.” Co-authored with Lerone Martin (June, 2010): <http://practicalmattersjournal.org/issue/3/editorial-intro/reflections-on-intersections>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses taught at University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (UWSP):

- Religion 100 (Religions of Asia)
- Religion 340 (Buddhism)
- Religion 202 (Introduction to the Study of Religion)
- Rel 302 (Religion and Cultural Conflict)
- Religion 333 (Women and Goddesses in India)
- Religion 341 (Religions of India)
- Religion 321.1 (Pilgrimage and Place in South Asian Religions); 321.2 (Researching Religion); 321.3 (Yoga); 321.4 (Religion and Ecology in Asia)
- Rel 390 (Service Learning)
- Rel 450 (Religion and Ecology)
- Rel 450 (Place and Pilgrimage)

Advisor, Comparative Religions Club, Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: August 2011-September 2017.

Graduate fellow/academic mentor for students in the SIRE (Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory) undergraduate research program: Aug. 2009-Aug. 2010.

Instructor, Religion 100: Introduction to Hinduism and Judaism (Emory): Spring, 2010.

T.A. Classic Religious Texts: Buddhist Narrative Literature (Emory): Spring, 2009.

Co-Instructor for Introduction to World Religions. (Genesis Program, Brandeis University): Summer, 2008.

T.A. Interpreting Religion: Theories and Methods of Religious Studies (Emory): Fall, 2005.

T.A. Senior Symposium: Writing Religion (Emory): Spring, 2004.

T.A. Asian Religious Traditions: Hindu and Buddhist Practices of South Asia (Emory): Fall, 2003.

Lecturer, English Teacher Training College (Warsaw University, Poland): 1995–96.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND PRIZES

UW-System Fellowship, Institute for Research in the Humanities, UW-Madison: 2014–2015.
Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory Graduate Fellow (Tuition, Stipend, and Training in Academic Mentoring): 2009–10.

Robert W. Woodruff Graduate Fellowship in Digital Libraries (declined): 2009–10.

American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellow: 2006–07.

Fulbright-Hayes Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant (declined): 2006–07.

American Institute of Indian Studies Pre-dissertation Research Grant: May, 2005.

American Institute of Indian Studies Advanced Hindi Program Grant: 2004–05.

American Institute of Indian Studies Advanced Sanskrit Participant: Summer, 2004.

Fellow, Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies: 2001–02.

Parker-Uran Fellowship for Study in Israel (Harvard, declined): 2000–02.

Sinclair Kennedy Grant for Research in India: 1999–00.

Fulbright Student Scholarship for Research in India: 1999–00.

Greek Prize, Haverford College: 1995.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religion in South Asia. Ecology. Place and pilgrimage. Visual culture. Religion, Disaster, and Development. History of religion. Shaivism. Critical phenomenology. Systems theory. Theories of myth. Comparative religion. Ethnography of Religion. Garhwali performance traditions.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Ethnographic fieldwork in Uttarakhand in support of book manuscript on Kedarnath: six weeks in 2013; three weeks in 2017; May-June 2014; January, 2017.

Ethnographic fieldwork in Uttarakhand in support of book manuscript on Kedarnath: three weeks in May-June 2011.

Ethnographic fieldwork in Uttarakhand in support of dissertation: approximately eighteen months, with breaks in 2006–2008.

Ethnographic fieldwork in Uttarakhand: three weeks in May, 2005.

Archival research at the Sanskrit Dictionary Project of Deccan College in Pune, India in support of dissertation: two weeks in Jan. 2007.

Archival research at the India Office Library of the British library in London in support of dissertation: one week in Jan. 2007.

Ethnographic fieldwork in support of Fulbright research on the visual culture of Hindu pilgrimage places. Traveled to Mussoorie, Kedarnath, Badrinath, Hardwar, Delhi, Braj,

Chennai, Madurai, Shivakashi, Srirangam, Rameshavaram, Tirupati, Varanasi): nine months in 1999–2000.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Are Local Gods Ecological?” American Academy of Religion annual conference, Boston: November, 2017.

“How ecological thinking undoes the religious-secular binary.” Annual South Asia Conference at University of Wisconsin-Madison: October, 2017.

“Religious Identity, Space, and Community in the Himalaya.” Discussant. Association of Asian Studies Annual conference, Toronto: March, 2017.

“The Pursuit of Shiva and the Pursuit of Dharma.” Annual South Asia Conference at University of Wisconsin-Madison: October, 2016.

“Vikas ka Tandav: Tourism and Development in Uttarakhand.” Annual South Asia Conference at University of Wisconsin-Madison: October, 2016.

“Understanding the Destructive Dance of Nature.” American Academy of Religion annual conference, Atlanta: November, 2015.

“Seeing Kedarnath as a Pahari Place.” Annual South Asia Conference at University of Wisconsin-Madison: October, 2015.

“They Made It Into a Picnic Place: Himalayan Pilgrimage in the Twenty-First Century.” Association for Asian Studies annual conference, Chicago: March 2015.

“Mountain, Water, Rock, God: Shiva’s Abode of Kedarnath in the Twenty-First Century.” Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison: December 2014.

“Natural Disaster in the Land of the Gods: Preliminary Observations on Post-June 2013 Uttarakhand.” South Asia Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison: November, 2014.

“Ritual and the Fragile Power of the Himalayan Landscape.” University of Wisconsin-Madison Annual Conference on South Asia: October, 2014.

“Touching Power: The Popular Faces of Kedarnath-Centered Esoteric Practice.” American Academy of Religion annual conference: November, 2013.

“The Decline of Walking: What it Says about Tirtha-Yatra in the Twenty-First Century.” American Academy of Religion annual conference: November, 2013.

“Dance the Angry God of the Politicians: Re-imagining the Poetics of Possession in Toronto.” American Academy of Religion: November, 2012.

“Where Frogs Become Shivas: Kedarakhanda and the Power of Region.” Annual Conference on South Asia at University of Wisconsin-Madison: October, 2012.

“Many Facets, One Power: Shiva’s Abode of Kedarnath at the Beginning of a New Millennium.” American Academy of Religion: November, 2011.

Dissertation-to-book workshop/pre-conference at the Annual Conference on South Asia at University of Wisconsin-Madison: October, 2011.

“Kedarnath Earns, Madmaheshvar Spends: Garhwali Deity Procession in the Age of YouTube and Bagpipes.” American Academy of Religion: November, 2010.

“Citralekha: The dream of a rakshasa’s daughter and the social history of visual culture production in the Kedarnath valley.” Annual Conference on South Asia at University of Wisconsin-Madison: October, 2010.

“Adhikar vs. Administration: the complex history and confrontational present of side-door access to the temple at Kedarnath.” Conference on the Study of Religions in India: June, 2010.

“Collaging Shiva: Visual Culture, Landscape, and Divine Presence at the Himalayan Shrine of Kedarnath.” Annual Conference of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion: March, 2010.

“Haunting, Helicopter Pilgrimage, and Development in the Himalayan Shrine of Kedarnath.” American Academy of Religion: November, 2009.

“The Ghee Massage Ritual at Kedarnath: Is it better to forsake local tradition or universal access to Shiva?” Conference on the Study of Religions of India: June, 2009.

“On Garhwali Virashaivisms and the Misreading of Religious Emotion.” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion: March, 2009.

“Kedarnath: Tirth, Yatra aur Anubhav.” Presentation (in Hindi) at Hemavati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand: February, 2008.

“The Relations of Personal Identity and Scholarly Identity.” Rethinking Religion in India conference (Delhi) for the panel Terminologies, Interpretations and Religious Experiences: Perspectives on the Religion of the Self: January, 2008.

“Roland Barthes’ Theory of Mythology and Cultural Criticism.” Presentation (in English and Hindi) for an English literature M. Phil class at Hemavati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar: December, 2007.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Assessment Coordinator: Fall 2016-Present.
Chair, Overholt Committee: Fall 2016-Spring 2017.
Member, Merit Committee: Fall 2016-Spring 2017.
Member, By-laws Committee: 2015–2016.
Religious Studies Coordinator: 2013–2014.
Chair, Merit Committee: 2013–2014.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Participant, National Association of Geoscience Teacher Workshop for developing a School of Sustainability at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: May, 2018.
Member, Faculty Learning Community (Global Awareness)
Dean's Advisory Council: 2011–2012.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for the *International Journal of the Society of Religion, Nature, and Culture* August 2018
External Reviewer for Dissertation Proposal and Dissertation for Ritodhi Chakraborti, UW-Madison (Geography), Fall 2015-Spring 2018.
Steering committee (Sacred Space in Asia; Space, Place, and Religion, American Academy of Religion): 2013-present.
Associate Editor, Journal of Indo-Judaic Studies: May 2012–2014.
Reviewer for the journal *Sociological Forum*: August, 2012.
Member of Editorial Board, *Journal of Indo-Judaic Studies*: 2010–2012.
Co-editor for the Consultation/ Journal Issue on Ethnography and Theology of the *Practical Matters Multimedia Journal of Religious Practices and Practical Theology* at Emory University, 2008–2010: www.practicalmattersjournal.org

OUTREACH

“LAUDATO SI - On Care For Our Common Home: Understanding Pope Francis on Climate Change”: Public panel discussion: March 2, 2016.

“The Idea of Dharma in Indian Religions.” Public lecture for UWSP LIFE program: March 14, 2014.

LANGUAGES

Proficiency: Hindi
Competence: Sanskrit, Hebrew (biblical, rabbinic, modern)
Intermediate Competence: spoken Garhwali
Reading knowledge: Greek, Latin
Academic reading knowledge: French, German

REFERENCES

Available upon request.